

Attorney Docket No.: DC0261US.NP
Inventors: Foote and Yeo
Serial No.: 10/553,585
Filing Date: January 13, 2006
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for detecting cardiac ischemia in an individual suspected of suffering from ischemic cardiovascular disease ~~comprising~~ consisting of:

a) measuring a level of brain natriuretic peptide in picograms of peptide per milliliter of blood in a first blood sample from an individual suspected of suffering from ischemic cardiovascular disease;

b) subjecting the individual to an exercise stress test with myocardial perfusion imaging wherein a dual isotope, rest-stress protocol is used;

c) measuring a level of brain natriuretic peptide in picograms of peptide per milliliter of blood in a second blood sample from the individual immediately after completion of the exercise stress test;

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- d) comparing an actual picogram per milliliter of blood level of brain natriuretic peptide in the first and second blood samples;
- e) determining an absolute level of change in the actual picogram per milliliter of blood level of brain natriuretic peptide in the first blood sample as compared to the second blood sample in the individual; and
- f) diagnosing ischemic cardiovascular disease in an individual by identifying the absolute level of change in the actual picogram per milliliter of blood level of peptide as being greater than 10 picograms per milliliter of brain natriuretic peptide.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for detecting cardiac ischemia in an individual suspected of suffering from ischemic cardiovascular disease comprising consisting of:

- a) measuring a level of N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide in picograms of peptide per milliliter of blood in a first blood sample from an individual suspected of suffering from ischemic cardiovascular disease;

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- b) subjecting the individual to an exercise stress test with myocardial perfusion imaging wherein a dual isotope, rest-stress protocol is used;
- c) measuring a level of N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide in picograms of peptide per milliliter of blood in a second blood sample from the individual immediately after completion of the exercise stress test;
- d) comparing an actual picogram per milliliter of blood level of N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide in the first and second blood samples;
- e) determining an absolute level of change in the actual picogram per milliliter of blood level of N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide in the first blood sample as compared to the second blood sample in the individual; and
- f) diagnosing ischemic cardiovascular disease in an individual by identifying the absolute level of change in the actual picogram per milliliter of blood level of peptide as being greater than 5 picograms per milliliter of N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide.